

REMARKS

In paragraph 3 of the final Action, claims 1 and 7 were objected to. In paragraph 4 of the final Action, claims 1, 2 and 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron et al. in view of Tuttle et al. and Sable et al. In paragraph 5 of the final Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron, Tuttle and Sabel and further in view of Gomi.

In view of the rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2, and claim 2 has been cancelled. Also, a clerical error of claim 7 has been amended.

In claim 1 of the invention, the image is formed on the recording medium first. The recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device to the first cutting position disposed at the curved portion, and the front and rear side edges of the recording medium are cut at the curved portion in the feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium. Further, the leading and trailing edges of the recording medium are cut at the second cutting position in the straight portion of the feeding path. In this connection, cutting of the leading edge of the recording medium is performed after cutting of the front side edges of the recording medium, and cutting of the trailing edge of the recording medium is performed after cutting of the rear side edges of the recording medium.

In Cameron et al., a slitting device has a rotatable member 1 and slitter 2. A web 3 is led between the rotatable member 1 and the slitter 2, and is cut longitudinally into sections without distorting the sections out of parallelism. The sections are then led upwardly to a feeding device formed of pull rollers 4 and 5. The sections pass between a rotating knife 6 and a stationary knife 7, so that the sections are cut transversely into sheets.

In the invention, the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device to the first cutting position disposed at the curved portion. Cameron et al. does not disclose the feed path

having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device. Cameron et al. does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Further Cameron et al. does not disclose that one of the leading and trailing edges is cut between the front and rear side edges. Therefore, Cameron et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention recited in claim 1.

In Tuttle et al., a strip material w in the form of a supply roll is processed by a slotted and intermitting machine to have slots 34, and before or after the processing, latent image is formed at a gate 37. The strip material w is processed at a processing apparatus 41 and so on. In Tuttle et al., although the image is formed on the strip material w, the strip material w is not cut as in claim 1 of the invention. The features of claim 1 are not disclosed in Tuttle et al.

In Sabel et al., a paper sheet is inserted into a machine while resting on a table 4. The paper sheet supported on the table 4 is first cut endwise into strips of predetermined width by an upper knives 9 and lower knives 11. After the sheet is slit endwise by the knives 9 and 11, feeding rollers move the sheet intermittently, so that a cutoff mechanism including an upper knife 66 and a lower knife 67 cuts the paper sheet transversely in predetermined lengths.

In claim 1 of the invention, the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device to the first cutting position disposed at the curved portion, and the front side edges of the recording medium are cut at the curved portion in a feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium. In Sabel et al., the table 4 is flat and straight, and is disposed at the center of the device. Sabel et al. does not disclose the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device. Sabel et al. does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Sabel et al. does not disclose or suggest the features as clearly defined in claim 1 of the invention.

In claim 7, the method of cutting the four edges is clearly

recited. In particular, the recording medium with the image thereon is fed to the first cutting position along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device for forming the image. The two front side edges of the recording medium are cut at the curved portion in the feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium. After cutting the two front side edges, the recording medium is stopped, and the leading edge of the recording medium is cut at the second cutting position in the straight portion of the feed path extending from the curved portion. Next, the recording medium is fed again along the curved portion to the first cutting position, and the two rear side edges of the recording medium are cut while feeding the recording medium. Lastly, after the recording medium is fed along the straight portion, the recording medium is stopped, and the trailing edge of the recording medium is cut at the second cutting position.

In Cameron et al., the side edges of the paper sheet are cut first, and then, the leading and trailing edges of the paper sheet are cut. Cameron et al. does not disclose that the four edges of the recording medium are cut in the four separate steps. Further, Cameron et al. does not disclose the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device for forming the image. Cameron et al. does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Therefore, Cameron et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention as recited in claim 7.

In Tuttle et al., the strip material w in the form of a supply roll is processed by the slotted and intermitting machine to have slots 34, and before or after the processing, latent image is formed at the gate 37. The features in cutting the four edges of claim 7 are not disclosed or suggested.

In Sabel et al., the side edges of the paper sheet are cut first, and then the leading and trailing edges of the paper sheet are cut. Sabel et al. does not disclose that the four edges of the recording medium are cut in the four separate steps. Further, Sabel et al. does not disclose the feed path having the curved portion

disposed at the corner inside the device for forming the image. Sabel et al. does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Therefore, Sabel et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention as recited in claim 7.

Gomi discloses a pressure developing unit, but the specific steps for cutting the sheets in the invention are not disclosed.


It is to be understood that the invention is directed to the method of cutting the sheets having the specific steps, not the apparatus. Although the various apparatuses were cited in the references, the specific steps as recited in the invention are not disclosed. Claims of the invention are patentable over the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

One month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$120.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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